



Preserving America's Heritage

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION SIX-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Adopted November 7, 2003

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION IS AN INDEPENDENT FEDERAL AGENCY ESTABLISHED BY THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT OF 1966, AS AMENDED (16 U.S.C. 470). THE ACHP ADVISES THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION MATTERS, ADMINISTERS THE PUBLIC REVIEW AND CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR FEDERAL UNDERTAKINGS ESTABLISHED BY SECTION 106 OF NHPA, AND WORKS TO IMPROVE FEDERAL POLICIES, PROGRAMS, PLANNING, AND DECISIONS WHEN THEY AFFECT THE NATION'S HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is to promote the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our Nation's historic resources, and advise the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy.

The ACHP was created by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and is the only Federal agency created solely to address historic preservation issues. To advance its fundamental mission, the ACHP is authorized by NHPA to:

- Advise the President and Congress on matters relating to historic preservation and recommend measures to coordinate historic preservation activities [§202(a)(1)];
- Comment to Federal agencies on the effects of their undertakings on historic properties [§106, 110(k), & 111];
- Review and make recommendations regarding the historic preservation policies and programs of Federal agencies [§202(a)(6)];
- Encourage public interest and training in historic preservation and educate parties regarding the ACHP's activities [§202(a)(2), (5), & (7)]; and
- Recommend studies regarding historic preservation implications of tax policy and State and local legislation and assist as to guidelines for such legislation [§202(a)(3) & (4)].

The ACHP's activities fall into five basic program areas: **advocate preservation policy, improve Federal preservation programs, protect and enhance historic properties, communicate the ACHP's message, and enhance ACHP organizational capabilities.** The long-range goals and six-year strategic goals for each program follow, along with their specific action areas.

ADVOCATE PRESERVATION POLICY

Long-Range Goal: To advance effective public policies that promote the protection, enhancement, and productive use of historic properties and support and encourage historic preservation activities carried out by Federal, State, local, and tribal governments.

Six-Year Strategic Goal: Shape Executive Branch and Congressional preservation policy, and maintain a formally recognized role in policy formulation and program development.

Action Areas:

- Work with Federal agencies and other public and private partners to develop and present a consistent and powerful message to elected officials, government policy makers, and business leaders that promotes historic preservation as a valid and important national priority.
- Work with the Administration and the Congress to secure necessary funding for the National Historic Preservation Program and to enact legislation that advances its goals.
- Promote Federal policies and programs that further the purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 13287, and Preserve America.
- Influence proposed legislation, rules, and regulations that affect historic preservation.
- Institutionalize the ACHP's historic preservation leadership role through active participation in Administration policy-making bodies and processes.

Six-Year Strategic Goal: Develop, carry out, and measure initiatives that promote the economic, educational, and social benefits of historic preservation.

Action Areas:

- Provide leadership for the implementation of the Administration's *Preserve America* initiative.
- Promote Federal, tribal, Native Hawaiian, State, and local programs and activities that advance economic development through heritage tourism and preservation.
- Encourage and publicize the availability of Federal financial assistance for historic preservation efforts.
- Work with the Department of Education and similar agencies to better relate historic preservation and heritage education to national education policies, programs, and initiatives.

IMPROVE FEDERAL PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

Long-Range Goal: To foster the development of Federal agency programs that enhance the stewardship of Federal historic properties and contribute to tribal, State, local, and private historic preservation efforts.

Six-Year Strategic Goal: Exercise leadership in improving the effectiveness, coordination, and consistency of the Federal preservation program.

Action Areas:

- Carry out ACHP responsibilities under Executive Order 13287 to assess and report on the efforts of Federal agencies to effectively manage and productively use their historic properties.
- Encourage Federal agencies to meet their obligations under Executive Order 13287 and the National Historic Preservation Act to have in place senior policy officials and qualified Federal Preservation Officers and assist those officials and FPOs in fulfilling their duties.
- Encourage and advise Federal agencies on developing and implementing tailored historic preservation planning and review systems and programmatic approaches that both advance preservation goals and promote efficient decisionmaking.

- Define priority areas for Federal program improvement initiatives and establish clear plans for ACHP action.
- Maintain an active, policy-level ACHP presence in promoting preservation goals and resolving conflicts with those goals in Federal agency programs.

Six-Year Strategic Goal: Collaborate with Federal agencies to highlight best practices and overcome obstacles related to the preservation and productive use of historic properties.

Action Areas:

- Evaluate Federal agency reviews of their policies and regulations required by Executive Order 13287 and advise them on making necessary revisions.
- Prepare recommendations to the President and Federal agencies to stimulate initiative, creativity, and efficiency in stewardship of historic properties as required by Executive Order 13287.
- Acknowledge and publicize outstanding Federal achievement in historic preservation through ACHP recognition programs and public outreach activities.
- Promote training that demonstrates effective approaches to meeting Federal preservation responsibilities.

Six-Year Strategic Goal: Encourage and facilitate partnerships to advance historic preservation goals.

Action Areas:

- Pursue bilateral partnerships with Federal agencies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their historic preservation programs.
- Use the ACHP's authority to obtain donations under the National Historic Preservation Act and Executive Order 13287 to assist Federal agencies in meeting their preservation needs.
- Promote multi-agency efforts to address specific historic preservation issues and opportunities.
- Pursue cooperative activities with Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and State Historic Preservation Officers to improve their participation in and benefits from the National Historic Preservation Program.

PROTECT AND ENHANCE HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Long-Range Goal: To promote outcomes in the Federal consideration of impacts to historic properties that advance the purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act and Executive Order 13287.

Six-Year Strategic Goal: Oversee the Section 106 process to maximize its efficiency and effectiveness.

Action Areas:

- Identify and correct inefficiencies in the operation of the Section 106 process.

- Pursue a comprehensive initiative to improve the involvement of Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations in the Section 106 process.
- Develop and implement performance measures to assess the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the Section 106 process.
- Focus ACHP involvement on individual cases where the potential outcomes warrant the investment of ACHP resources.
- Make the public aware of Section 106 as a preservation tool and publicize successful cases and outcomes.
- Develop tools that improve the operation and effectiveness of the Section 106 process.

Six-Year Strategic Goal: Improve the operation of the Section 106 process through better integration with other Federal, State, local, and tribal planning and decisionmaking processes.

Action Areas:

- Participate in interagency environmental streamlining and stewardship initiatives.
- Use bilateral partnership arrangements to develop agency-specific integration of historic preservation reviews into agency planning and decisionmaking processes.
- Collaborate with tribal, State, and local governments to improve coordination with their planning and decisionmaking processes.

Six-Year Strategic Goal: Enhance the capabilities of primary Section 106 participants (particularly Federal agencies, State, local and tribal governments, and Native Hawaiian organizations) to carry out their respective roles in the Section 106 process and improve communication among these parties.

Action Area: Assistance to Federal Agencies

- Develop information and guidance addressed specifically to environmental streamlining and stewardship efforts and cross-cutting issues.
- Build and participate in effective Federal organizations and communication forums for addressing historic preservation needs and challenges.
- Assist Federal agencies in meeting their responsibilities to consult with Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.

Action Area: Assistance to State Historic Preservation Officers

- Improve communication with SHPOs by providing timely and useful information on Federal programs and Section 106 issues.
- Monitor problems that SHPOs confront in carrying out their responsibilities under Section 106 and develop solutions to be carried out jointly by the ACHP and SHPOs.
- Develop specialized training and resource materials for SHPOs.
- Work with the National Conference of SHPOs, its board, staff and members, to foster overall improvement and efficiency in the operation of Section 106 at the State level.

Action Area: Assistance to Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiians

- Establish and support a body of Native American Advisors to ensure effective involvement of Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations in the work of the ACHP.
- Improve communication and interaction with inter-tribal organizations, individual Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.
- Work with principal Section 106 users to improve consultation with Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.
- Implement the ACHP member-approved Action Plan on Native American Initiatives.

Action Area: Training

- Provide or facilitate effective introductory instruction on the Section 106 process to Section 106 users.
- Revise training materials and methods to ensure high quality and effective training.
- Encourage and facilitate the training activities of others in order to leverage training resources.
- Collaborate with partners to develop and expand training initiatives.
- Utilize bilateral partnerships and other opportunities to develop advanced training on the Section 106 process, dispute resolution, and promoting effective outcomes under Section 106.

COMMUNICATE THE ACHP'S MESSAGE

Long-Range Goal: To inform and educate stakeholders, the public, and their governmental representatives about the ACHP's mission and program and to promote a national preservation ethic.

Six-Year Strategic Goal: Implement effective communication and outreach programs that showcase the roles of the ACHP and other members of the national historic preservation partnership in achieving successful preservation programs and projects.

Action Areas:

- Use the full range of preservation and interest-area media, conferences, and information channels to inform a wide range of constituencies about preservation benefits and opportunities and to communicate targeted ACHP messages.
- Use the ACHP and Preserve America web sites to showcase and publicize preservation policies, success stories, and best practices related to the ACHP and the Federal government specifically and historic preservation in general.
- Work with other Federal agencies and organizations to educate audiences about Federal historic preservation efforts, stewardship, best practices, and preservation achievements, with emphasis on the Preserve America initiative.
- Cultivate media contacts and opportunities to provide information, distribute news releases, place op eds, and produce and place articles about historic preservation.
- Use the congressionally mandated annual report to the President and Congress to highlight ACHP activities and accomplishments, nationwide preservation achievements, and preservation success stories.

Six-Year Strategic Goal: Encourage and recognize excellence in furthering the goals of the NHPA, Executive Order 13287, and Preserve America.

Action Areas:

- Conduct a Chairman’s award program to recognize and encourage Federal preservation leadership, successes, and model practices.
- In partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, confer an annual joint Award for Federal Partnerships in Historic Preservation to honor outstanding Federal partnerships that advance the preservation of important historic resources and achieve exemplary preservation outcomes.
- With the White House and the Department of the Interior, conduct a Preserve America Presidential Awards program to honor organizations, businesses, government entities, and individuals for exemplary preservation accomplishments.
- With the White House and the Department of the Interior, conduct a recognition program for Preserve America Communities.

Six-Year Strategic Goal: Promote public understanding of the economic, educational, and social benefits of historic preservation.

Action Areas:

- Use the Preserve America initiative to publicize historic preservation benefits.
- Partner with the private sector and governmental entities to communicate the benefits of historic preservation and opportunities to participate in preservation initiatives, programs, and Federal decisionmaking.
- Network with preservation organizations at the national leadership level to coordinate policies and activities.

ENHANCE ACHP ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITIES

Long-Range Goal: To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the ACHP in meeting the needs of its customers and in carrying out its mandated responsibilities.

Six-Year Strategic Goal: Obtain adequate resources from public and private sources, including funding, staffing, office systems, and other support, to carry out the ACHP’s responsibilities effectively.

Action Areas:

- Maintain level of appropriated funds necessary to support ACHP program activities.
- Employ ACHP donations authority to obtain additional resources.
- Effectively manage human, financial, and technological resources to maximize ACHP capabilities.

Six-Year Strategic Goal: Create partnerships with Federal agencies, tribal, State, and local government, and private parties to advance the ACHP's mission and goals.

Action Areas:

- Use partnership arrangements with Federal agencies to obtain resources to meet shared ACHP and agency goals.
- Identify and exploit opportunities for partnerships with non-Federal entities that can enhance ACHP capabilities.

Six-Year Strategic Goal: Enhance operational effectiveness and efficiency by improving teamwork, communication, professional development, and the office environment.

Action Areas:

- Maintain effective ACHP member-staff cooperation and communication on program development and implementation through the ACHP committee structure.
- Refine organizational structure as needed to adapt to changing functions and needs.
- Provide an effective performance recognition system and staff development program.
- Ensure that the office environment, records management, and daily operating procedures contribute to a pleasant and efficient workplace.



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